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VVAN

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

INFORMATION CONTAINED
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AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 27, 1973

REGIONS PRESENT: Alabama/Mississippi/Tennessee; California/Nevada; Colorado/Utah/Wyoming; East Pennsylvania/Delaware; Washington, D. C./E. Maryland/Virginia; Florida; N. Illinois/Iowa; S. Illinois/E. Missouri; Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky; Great Plains; Wisconsin/Minnesota; New York/N. New Jersey; Oregon; Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting opened with a request from Milwaukee for a moment of silence in memory of Fred Rosenthal. Fred was a VVAW/WSO member of the Milwaukee chapter who was arrested Sunday night (Aug. 19) and was found dead in the jail on Monday morning. The police are calling the death an over-dose of drugs, but Fred's body was covered with bruises. VVAW/WSO in Milwaukee is now beginning an investigation into the death of Fred Rosenthal, and it is expected that police involvement in this death will become apparent. Fred's death was a tragic loss to the Milwaukee chapter, and therefore, is a loss to us all.

The Pacific Counseling Service is looking for an organizer to go to Iwakuni Japan. The job will last approximately one year, and applicants should have some experience in C.I. organizing. If there is anyone interested in this job, contact VVAW/WSO in San Francisco at: P. O. Box 151, San Francisco, California 94103. Details of this job can be obtained at the same address.

ROUND ROBIN REPORTS

The Round Robin reports took up quite a bit of the meeting time, so it is suggested that at future meetings regions bring their Round Robins in written form. The written report can then be handed out to the other regions, and the verbal report can deal specifically with the strengths and weaknesses of the regions. This will make the reports go much smoother and save us time.

Alabama/Mississippi/Tennessee: There is very little activity in Mississippi and Tennessee, and most of the activity in Alabama is centered around Operation County Fair in Bogue Chitto. The problems in Alabama center around the fact that members are spread out across the state, so there is little chapter involvement. A regional meeting is being planned in hopes that the membership can pull together and chapters can again form. The regional office in Tuscaloosa is in the process of making a survey on the needs of veterans. A Veterans Sponsor program has been started, and this program is designed to work on obtaining housing, food stamps, etc. for veterans as they move into the community. The region is also involved in doing prison outreach, and outreach into the black community of Selma.

California/Nevada: The California region has been quite active, though there

Members are actively supporting/attending the trials and doing educational work around the cases. Amnesty is perhaps the major focus of regional work. The region is in the process of developing a grass-roots amnesty program which is to be statewide. The Discharge Upgrading Project in San Francisco is extremely busy doing counseling, outreach and political education. The DUP seems to be functioning with a high level of energy and has already proved itself to be an on-going community project. There are plans to integrate anti-recruitment in high schools with the amnesty campaign, and this should begin in the fall with speakers from VVAW/WSO and the DUP going into community schools. The northern and southern sub-regions are now in the process of planning conferences for the purpose of developing strategy for the amnesty campaign.

The regional office is still the clearing house for Operation County Fair and is busy collecting supplies, doing mailings, raising funds, and looking for a doctor willing to move to Bogue Chitto. Other regions working on OCF should be coordinating their activities more carefully with the Los Angeles Clearing House because L.A. does not always know what supplies are being sent to Alabama. Guidelines for the operation of the Clearing House are in the Chicago NSCM minutes and should be followed by chapters working on OCF.

Other activities of the region include leafletting and offering of support of the United Farm Workers. The PVS Twice Born Men project in San Francisco is still going strong and the people involved are in the process of putting together a video program explaining the project. The completion of this program will be announced at a later date. Oakland and Los Angeles chapters held support demonstrations for Gainesville and succeeded in pulling many people out of the woodwork.

The region has developed an internal funding program (explained in Favorite Sons). Members are required to donate 5% of their net income to the regional office. From there, 1/4 of the money is kept by the region, 1/4 goes back to the sub-regions, and 1/2 of the money goes back to the chapters. The funding program has been successful to the point that the membership is now actively supporting the organization.

The Oakland/East Bay chapter has found an effective means of raising money. They have held two Tune-Up Benefits which operates by getting mechanics together to work on cars. The procedure of the Tune-Up is very similar to the running of a car wash.

Materials available from the region: amnesty bumper-stickers, Watergate buttons, Favorite Sons, and The Veteran (a paper published by a San Francisco Community College). Regions should inform the L.A. office as to how many copies of Favorite Sons they wish to receive each month.

Colorado/Utah/Wyoming: Colorado did not arrive at the meeting until after Round Robin reports were completed. The following is a re-print of the report that Colorado sent to the National Office.

We certainly have not been as active as we would like or should be, but we are still in existence and have done some things. We moved in with Rocky Mountain Military Project at the end of June. Our primary work has been with them and the Lowry Project. We sent a representative to the Toronto Amnesty Conference over Memorial Day weekend and found out how really little we knew or understood the amnesty issue beforehand. After the Conference, we joined the Amnesty Task Force which is constituted of VVAW/WSO, Rocky Mountain Military Project, AFSC, CALC, and other.

We helped the Lowry Project on the Stubbs Defense Committee. Stubbs was a black airman at Lowry AFB in Denver, who was beaten by several Security Policemen after telling another brother who was being arrested for illegally having a bottle of liquor that he (Stubbs) would be a witness for him. As a result, Stubbs was charged with interference, resisting lawful apprehension, assault and other things (6 charges).

In June we got out an issue of Hoa Binb which is our newspaper. All regions should have received a copy.

On August 4th we had our Gainesville action. We did street theater which we presented 5 times during the day at several different locations in Denver.

Country Joe McDonald gave a benefit concert for us and the Military project on August 23rd.

East Pennsylvania/Delaware: The region has been having some internal difficulties centering around the lack of communication between the regional office and the chapters. The region seems to have lost their low in membership, but hope to begin re-building the region and improving the communications. There has been a lot of FBI harassment within the region, particularly in the Harrisburg chapter. The Mt. Penn chapter has been busy raising money for the Gainesville defense and they have a "Free the Gainesville Vets" poster available. One of the future projects of the region is the development of a working class newspaper. Copies of this newspaper will be sent to other regions when the first issue is completed.

Washington, D. C./East Maryland/Virginia: At one point, the FBI managed to harass this region out of existence, but the region is now in the process of building back up again. There are four active chapters in the region, though the College Park chapter has been doing little work because of the summer break at the university. The Washington, D. C. office has recently opened a new office in an ethnic-mixed/political neighborhood. This should allow the chapter to be in a better position for doing outreach and coordinating activity with other organizations. The region is discussing re-structuring and will be electing a new regional coordinator in the near future.

The region is working on several projects, but these projects are relatively independent of one another and uncoordinated. The Washington, D. C. chapter is working with GARIC and helping gather information about the intelligence community. The D. C. chapter needs information regarding covert operations by the Army Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, the Phoenix program, etc.

The D. C. chapter is also working with the Military and Draft Law Panel and will be doing work around discharge upgrading, as well as organizing around the entire amnesty issue. An area amnesty conference is being planned for all people interested in working on amnesty. The D. C. chapter has also volunteered their help for all persons who will be coming to Washington for discharge upgrading hearings. The address of the chapter is: 2028 P. St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036. The phone is: 202-466-8293.

The region is also involved in C.I. organizing and is relating to the Highway 13 project/chapter at Ft. Meade. Recently, VVAW/WSO received legal permission to distribute the Highway 13 newspaper on the base. If other regions are having legal hassles regarding C.I. projects and organizing, they should contact the Military and Draft Law Panel.

Florida: Florida now has 14 chapters, 8 of which are considered active. Most of the chapters have been involved with working on the Gainesville trial, and Pensacola and Tallahassee chapter members are working on the defense committee.

Projects of the region include support of the United Farm Workers, and the Homestead Air Force Base organizing being done out of the Miami chapter. The Homestead project is building daily and may turn out to be one of the strongest active-duty projects in the country.

The FBI harassment has been at a high level in the region. Jacksonville is no longer active because of the harassment and stealing of the WSI film which they had in their possession. Also, Jim Hale of Miami was busted for drugs but questioned by the FBI and the IRS while in jail. The IRS has moved in on Jim and confiscated all of his money and property while claiming that he owes back taxes for every year that he has been out of Vietnam. People should take note and be aware that IRS pressure may be the up and coming tactic of government harassment.

The Florida region has had some serious internal problems, but is now resolving those struggles. The regional office has been moved to Tampa and regional leadership will be selected soon. The region is building its strength again and has overcome many problems. Activity is now regular and effective, so Florida seems to be back on its feet and here to stay.

The Tampa chapter is establishing a memorial fund for the Bach Mai hospital in honor of John Hogg, a brother who recently died of an over-dose of drugs. John was crippled and used drugs for pain relief. He was active in the movement for over four years, and much of his recent organizing evolved around the Bach Mai hospital. For more information about this memorial fund, contact the regional office.

Northern Illinois/Iowa: The regional office is in DeKalb, Ill., but has been inactive in the past few months because of summer break at the university there. The Chicago chapter has recently re-organized itself and is building strength after a period of inactivity. A forum was held in July for the purpose of building support for the Chicago chapter. The chapter is working on three basic areas: amnesty, Reservists and Guard organizing, and anti-racism. In November, an amnesty rally is to be held in Chicago, and VVAW/WSO will have a speaker there to combat the Bella Abzug position on amnesty. Also, the chapter is working with the street gangs of Chicago and educating them to the destructiveness of racism. The National Lawyers Guild has been helping the chapter and has made it possible for Winter Soldier to be distributed at Ft. Sheridan.

The Chicago chapter will soon be running a series of workshops on how to use printing presses so that they can begin to publish their own materials. The chapter is also beginning a Marxist/Leninist study group.

Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky: Cincinnati will be hosting the Mid-West Amnesty Conference on September 21-23. Chapters and regions who will be attending this conference should send agenda items to Cincinnati as soon as possible.

The Dayton chapter and NOSCAM are now in possession of a weekly radio program which is picked up at Wright-Patterson AFB. The show has been very successful and well received by the GIs and civilians who receive the show. Along with Dayton, many of the chapters have been heavily involved in military counseling and discharge upgrading.

effective way to reach people and make money at the same time.

The regional office has finally gotten its off-set press operating and are now publishing literature about VVAW/WSO. Regions should be receiving samples of the region's efforts in the near future.

Great Plains: The region is having internal struggles and problems in retaining membership. There may be some misunderstanding as to the direction of VVAW/WSO and the difference between our work now and what we did in the past. The region has done little in the way of actions, though there was a support demonstration for Cainesville in Kansas City, two regional camp-outs this summer, and a benefit concert in the planning for the Cainesville defense fund. Also, the Kansas City chapter participated in the anti-Nixon demonstration that occurred when Nixon traveled to K. C. to swear-in Kelley as director of the FBI. Kelley was formerly the K. C. police chief and there are still class-action suits being brought against Kelley by VVAW/WSO members. The suits are a result of the illegal surveillance and harassment against VVAW/WSO members by the K. C. police force. The region will soon be sending their personal analysis of Kelley to all of the regions so that we can learn what our new FBI director is like and what he has done to VVAW/WSO in the past.

The Great Plains region is now in the process of re-structuring. John Musgrave, the regional coordinator, will be resigning in September, so a new form of leadership will be set up.

Other projects of the region include the sponsoring of David Harris and Jack McCloskey who will be in the region in late September. Harris will be speaking about the amnesty issue, and McCloskey will be discussing PVS. Also, the Wichita chapter has just gotten a food co-op off the ground and it looks as though the co-op will be a success.

The regional office still has amnesty bumper-stickers available. Contact Kansas City for information and orders.

West Pennsylvania/West Virginia/West Maryland: This region was not present at the NSCM, but one of the Ohio members has spent the summer in Pittsburgh and has a good understanding of the region. There is absolutely no activity in the region. This is largely due to the fact that paranoia is a big problem and pressure from the FBI has been heavy. The regional office has made no attempt to contact the membership, so the chapters that did exist have died. The region requested to be annexed by another region for the present, because the regional coordinator no longer wants to do his job and there is no one else in the region able to handle the position. One thing that might help the region out is for other chapters and regions to correspond with the people in West Pa. The regional office wants to know what is happening in other parts of the country, so regions should put the Pittsburgh address on all mailing lists.

Wisconsin/Minnesota: Wisconsin is extremely active, and Minnesota is beginning to surface again. There are problems in Minnesota, however, due to a very low level of political consciousness.

Milwaukee is the most active chapter in the region. They are involved in a food co-op, mechanics co-op, dealing with community drug problems, political education classes, and direct resistance. On October 21, 22, 23, there will be a week-

a city-wide amnesty coalition so that grass-roots organizing around the issue will soon get into full swing.

75 copies of the PVS library have been sold, so more copies are being run off. The price of the entire library is: \$6.00 for VVAW/WSG members, \$10.00 for other organizations, and \$50.00 for the VA and other government institutions.

There is now a very active chapter of 47 people within the Waupon State Prison. Some of the members are guards and other prison employees who are Vietnam veterans. There has been quite a bit of harassment of Don Kemp, but the chapter in Waupon is growing and building daily, and has refused to be intimidated. The women of the region are also beginning to make contact with women prisoners and prison workers. There will be a political forum in the state women's prison later this fall.

Other projects which are continuing in Milwaukee are the Peace Education program which is conducted in high schools. Milwaukee has also discovered that guerilla theater is a very effective means of political education and has invited other regions to contact them if information on producing theater is desired.

A government agent has been exposed in Milwaukee. His name is Fred Veile and he is a disabled veterans and a junkie. He was recently responsible for the arrest of 56 people in Milwaukee. Veile had infiltrated the chapter, but has recently left the Milwaukee area. A description and photo of Veile will be coming out in the national newsletter, so people should be on the look-out for this guy.

The region has invited all other regions to participate in the 3rd Annual Peace and Solidarity Labor Day Parade. 900 people are expected to participate in this parade on Sept. 3rd. If chapters and members can make it to Milwaukee, the participation will be very much appreciated, and the time spent in Milwaukee will be very much enjoyed.

New York/Northern New Jersey: This region has 15 chapters, but only 8 of them are active at this time. The two most active areas are New York City and Buffalo. The NYC chapter has moved its office to an area which is the center of movement activity. Hopefully, this will help the chapter make solid contacts with other organizations and build interest and participation in the chapter. The chapter has recently published a newspaper, Lock 'n Load, which will be sent to all regions. NYC organized a demonstration in support of Gainesville and they succeeded in turning out several hundred people for the rally. The chapter is actively working on the amnesty issue, and the focus of their work will be the upgrading of discharges. Members are now being trained in the procedure of discharge upgrading and will soon begin counseling and preparing forms.

The Buffalo chapter has had a slow summer, but expect to begin working at a faster pace this fall. The chapter is located in a store-front office, and this has put them in a position to do positive community outreach. The chapter recently held 3 benefits in bars and raised \$1000. They worked out a deal with a local bar owner wherein the bar sells 25¢ drinks, but draws in a lot of business. Tickets are sold to enter the bar, and food is provided. The chapter has discovered that such a benefit can be a good time for all, as well as a money-maker. Buffalo has discovered another method of raising money -- each chapter member gives one day's pay a month to the chapter. This has brought a lot of money into the chapter, and Buffalo would suggest that other regions try a similar method of having the membership support the organization.

nesty campaign. They hope to integrate anti-recruitment with the campaign because a state law was recently passed which adopted ROTC in junior high and high schools.

The region has been having its share of FBI harassment. Buffalo is sending a letter to the telephone company through their lawyer, requesting that a check be made on the telephone because a tap is suspected. The purpose behind this is that it will establish that any taps that are there are illegal and this will provide a safeguard in case telephone conversations cause problems in the future.

Outside of NYC and Buffalo, things seem to be holding their own. There has been no great surge of activity, but work may pick up this fall. Ray Winters, the regional coordinator will be resigning soon, so the region will be re-structuring its regional office in the near future.

Oregon: The main activity in Oregon has been centering around amnesty. VVAW/WSO in Portland is working with the Draft and Military Center there, and they are doing educational work around the issue. Also, Oregon is organizing a petition campaign directed to Sen. Hatfield calling for unconditional amnesty. Many signatures have been collected by VVAW/WSO attendance at state and county fairs. Attending these fairs also gives the chapters a good opportunity to talk with the people as they sign the petitions.

Some of the chapters have also been involved in holding car washes for the purpose of raising money for a Vietnamese orphanage.

Chapters which are located in university town have been busy manning tables every week where information about VVAW/WSO, Gainesville, the Chino Escape Case, and Winter Soldiers are available. These tables have been effective in building membership and getting the word out.

Texas: The region suffered some serious problems because of John Kniffin's necessary presence in Florida during the past year, but the region seems to be building again and the chapters are pulling together. The work done in San Antonio is centering around G.I. organizing and the establishment of a jail reform program. Austin is doing counseling in alternative living and is also involved in the establishment and running of a food co-op. Houston has been busy working on alternative media such as plays, newspapers, and radio programs. Houston is also running a community bookstore and trying to set up a bar for community outreach and political education. The region is much stronger now than it was a year ago. The FBI harassment has decreased and Texas is building again at a steady pace.

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT

Financial: The financial situation of the national office is rather grim at the moment but things should be looking up soon. The low level of money is partially due to the fact that the national office financed the Gainesville demonstration and the Gainesville 8 News Bureau. Thus far, over \$2700 has been sent to Gainesville, and the national office did not anticipate an expense of this size. Arrangements have recently been made to work with a professional fund-raiser in New York. Our fund-raiser is one of the five bonded fund-raisers in the country and has a history of successfully raising large sums of money for organizations such as VVAW/WSO. The

for amnesty work with the San Francisco Discharge Upgrading Project. If the funding proposals come through, the national office will have money to operate an amnesty campaign and directly coordinate amnesty organizing.

Incorporation: VVAW/WSO is now officially incorporated in the state of Illinois. We are incorporated as a non-profit organization under the name of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization, Inc. Because of the incorporation, we now have to pay social security on all of the national office employees. The national office is still trying to attain IRS tax-exempt status, but this is an involved, detailed procedure and we don't yet know if it is possible.

Resources: With regard to resource material, all of the films formerly kept in the national office are now being distributed through Ohio News Reel. If chapters are interested in getting hold of these films, they should contact: Ohio News Reel, P. O. Box 19241, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. These films are available to VVAW/WSO chapters with no charge, except postage. By having the films kept at News Reel, they will receive a much larger distribution and will be continually kept in good condition. The national office also has buttons available for the chapters. We must get rid of the buttons that we now have before we can order a new VVAW/WSO button, so chapters are encouraged to order from this last batch of VVAW buttons. Chapters are also encouraged to buy posters from the national office. We have "The People of Vietnam have been Victorious on the Battlefield," and "Unconditional Amnesty for all War Resisters" posters available. Both of these posters are reprinted from the back of Winter Soldier, and they can be used as an effective means of education and/or fund-raising. Chapters wishing to purchase copies of Winning Hearts and Minds and Free Fire Zone should order them through the national office. First Casualty Press is no longer handling the books and they have sent bulk copies of both books to the national office. The third book in the series, Post Mortum, will be published soon, but it will be handled by a straight publishing house. This is because First Casualty no longer has the resources or facilities to handle the printing and distribution.

Internal Report: In the past few months some regions and chapters have folded, but we do not view this to be as serious as it may sound. Those chapters that are remaining are either excellent or non-existent (simply a mailing address). It looks as though the organization is trimming down to the point where the hard-core organizers are left. We view this as a progressive step. Despite a loss in membership, the organization is much stronger than it has been in the past because the membership that we do have is dedicated and aware that we are involved in a long-term struggle.

The organization has been much more active this summer than it has been in the past summers. This is largely due to Gainesville and the demonstrations that occurred around the country. From the communication that is received in the national office, it looks as though most of the chapters' interest is centering around amnesty and the Gainesville trial. Because of this, it seems obvious that these two areas should continue to be stressed by VVAW/WSO on a national level.

As always, communications is the national office's major criticism of the regions and chapters. Some regions, such as Ohio, have maintained excellent communication with the national office, but there are other regions that we simply never hear from. National would request that we be put on all of the chapter and regional mailing lists, especially newsletter lists. If we are receiving all the newsletters

to the national office would inform us as to what is going on; then, this information could be put out in the national newsletter and the information would get out to the rest of the country. It is very important that all regions, especially weak regions, know what is going on within the organization. There will be more interest and activity if regions can learn from one another, but this requires communication. So once again, don't talk about it -- COMMUNICATE.

Political Prisoners: Political prisoners is one of the major focuses of interest within the national office. Contact with defense committees all over the country, such as Wounded Knee, Attica, Norfolk, Chino, Karl Armstrong, etc. have been made and we have good working relationships of cooperation with many other defense groups. Chapters should be aware that defense committees throughout the country have contacted VVAW/WSO and asked for support and articles in Winter Soldier. An interesting phenomena relating to prisoners has also occurred in the past few months. Much to our surprise, we have been contacted by many individuals now in prison asking to join, receive the newspaper, and give whatever support we can offer. There is a lot of liberation activity going on in prisons across the country, and VVAW/WSO has been included in this activity, even without our knowledge that this was happening. An example of our tie-in to the prisons around the country may be seen by looking at the Florida state prison at Starke. We now have several members in Starke, most of them have recently been charged for participating in an "incident" which occurred in Starke. We feel that our involvement in the prison movement is very important and should be continued on all levels of the organization.

We have been contacted by prisoners and defense committees to do educational work around their cases, but we are unable to work and publicize all cases. Because of this we have been forced to be selective and do educational work on those cases which we feel are the most important and typical of the extreme political repression within this country.

External Report: Probably the most important thing for chapters to understand is the vast amount of respect for VVAW/WSO by organizations throughout the U.S. and around the world. Just one example of this respect is the telegram that we received from the Cambodians (reprinted in W.S.) It is necessary to be aware of this respect and the manner in which people across the country look to us as a valid and credible organization. VVAW/WSO is more than an organization; it is a movement unto itself and this should be recognized by all members. Because of the respect that has been given us, we feel it is important that our membership be worthy of the admiration that exists for VVAW/WSO. People should never be ashamed to draw people into our organization; in fact, we should be actively and consistently recruiting people to join. It is time that we become aware of who we are and begin to respect our organization from the inside just as people on the outside have done.

Winter Soldier: It is vitally important that chapters send in their order blanks for newspapers and pick the papers up at Greyhound or REA when they are notified that they have arrived. Several shipments have been made and refused by the chapters so that they are then sent back to Chicago and the national office has to pay for the two-way shipment. If chapters haven't received their papers by the 27th of the month, they should inform national. If the papers have in fact been shipped, we can then begin tracing them to find out where they ended up. We have had some shipping problems, but hope that the majority of the bugs have been ironed out by now. Chapters should let us know if it is cheaper for us to ship papers by Grey-

best way. So, let the national office know what is cheapest. (800 newspapers equals approximately 100 pounds.

The newspaper is a long way from paying for itself. Because of this, it is important that chapters hussle subscriptions. Particular attention should be given to libraries because subscriptions are \$15.00 and libraries are supposed to order literature that the community requests. Also, the newspaper needs photos of actions and activities of the chapters. If you send photos in, let us know if you want them back; otherwise, we will keep them. We prefer that people send in negatives and proof sheets. Finally, chapters should be aware that the response to the newspaper has been overwhelming around the country. Prisoners, G.I.s, and other organizations have praised Winter Soldier, so selling the paper on the street should pose no problems.

Amnesty Clearing House: On the national level, VVAW/WSO is presently working with NGUUA (National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty). There have been problems with that organization and it is still unclear whether or not it will prove to be a valid national structure for the amnesty movement.

There has been a summer slump with regard to work being done on amnesty. People should expect that energy will be picking up this fall and be prepared for the nation-wide interest in this issue. Amnesty is an issue which is very important to VVAW/WSO. It provides us the opportunity to do grass roots organizing within our respective communities, and also provides the potential for working with other organizations. VVAW/WSO is in a unique position and vital to the entire amnesty campaign. The mass force behind the amnesty campaign will come from those people most directly affected, and VVAW/WSO membership is definitely directly affected especially, when considering less-than-honorable discharges. Because of this, it looks as though discharge upgrading will be the concrete focus of VVAW/WSO amnesty organizing.

The National Clearing House has not been as productive as expected, but in the future one or two members of the national collective will be devoting a majority of their time to the amnesty issue and the strategy which will surround organizing. The national office hopes to be getting out resource materials such as posters, position papers, etc. A national program for amnesty is one of the major priorities of the national collective, and hopefully, concrete ideas will be coming out to the chapters soon.

GAINESVILLE REPORT

The Gainesville report was divided into three sections: 1. general analysis of the trial, 2. events of the trial, 3. the functioning of the News Bureau. The events of the trial will not be covered here because lengthy details are given in the trial reports which are being sent to the chapters. Hopefully, these trial reports will be useful when chapters are dealing with media people and for their general information as to what is happening.

Analysis of the trial: Watergate testimony has repeatedly shown the GREP viewed the anti-war issue as the swing issue in the 1972 presidential election. It also showed that as early as spring 1971, Nixon was acutely aware of VVAW/WSO's leadership role in the anti-war movement. Against the background of a rapidly escalating repression of all political activity in the U.S., the desire to defuse the anti-

war issue in the 1972 presidential campaign, and a subsequent attempt to partially divert attention away from the Watergate scandal, the reasoning behind why the trial occurred becomes totally clear.

There have been some interesting results of the trial in Gainesville. It is now clearly understood that political repression has become a way of life in America. Also, it is important to note that Gainesville is the most recent of the conspiracy trials which have come out of the grand jury witch-hunts. The grand jury was one instrument of repression which was used a great deal, but the credibility of the grand jury system may be dying with the Gainesville trial because the majority of American people do not believe the charges. So now comes the question of what is the government going to try next? Special attention should now be paid to the IRS. The IRS has already begun moving against VVAW/WSC members, and tax evasion charges are a good method of getting people into court. Also drug frame-ups seem to be an up and coming method of silencing people. The membership should be aware of these two tactics, and the national office should be contacted if any of the above means of harassment are used on VVAW/WSC members.

Gainesville 8 News Bureau: The Gainesville 8 News Bureau is functioning with a five person collective: Walter Klin, Mike Mazzetti, Bruce Logsdon, Bill Shunas, and Bart Savage. The News Bureau looks at itself as having five major functions: compiling trial reports, building media contacts, building alternate media contacts, achieving self-sufficiency from the national office, and building the Gainesville chapter. The work of the News Bureau has included the preparation of the press packet which was given to press people when the trial opened; keeping a press booklet of all Gainesville coverage; and keeping the press packet up to date for the media as the trial progresses. Two members of the collective are in the News Bureau at all times, and two members attend court and take notes for the trial reports. The Gainesville chapter is building after a long lull of activity, and the News Bureau is trying to keep this chapter autonomous from the Bureau. One of the major problems with the News Bureau is funds. The Bureau is still primarily financed by the national office and this will continue until more grass-root support can be built within the community. The Bureau has requested that chapters send them money to keep the Bureau open. It is vitally important that this collective continue to function, because it is our only means of knowing what is going on with the trial. An example of the expenses may be seen when noting that the xeroxing bill alone runs \$30-\$40 a week. Besides sending money, chapters should send clippings regarding Gainesville to the News Bureau. By doing this, the Bureau will know what the press is doing around the country.

Chapters who wish to keep u-dated on the trial might find it beneficial to subscribe to the Gainesville Sun. Subscriptions cost \$3.00 a month and the coverage in the Sun has been very good.

NOSCAM REPORT

The historical context of NOSCAM is that the project has enabled GIs to get involved with VVAW/WSC and remain involved after receiving their discharges. Out of 30 NOSCAM members who have already been discharged, 10 of these members are actively working with VVAW/WSC. This is a very good "return", and has proved beneficial to the organization. Since NOSCAM was established last July, over

100 people have joined. There are six active VVAW/WSO chapters which have been formed because of NOSCAM: four of the chapters are in Japan, one is at Homestead Air Force Base near Miami, and one is in the Ft. Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks. Also, Ft. Hood GIs are beginning to relate to VVAW/WSO, and there may be some new chapters in Germany by the end of the year. NOSCAM expects that within the next year, there will be several thousand members of NOSCAM and VVAW/WSO. Because of this, it is vitally important that regions do their work with regard to the project. The weakest link in the NOSCAM chain is regional communication. Regions have not been corresponding with the new NOSCAM members, so membership will be lost. People should be aware that when most GIs are discharged, they return to their home area, so if a member is from your region, he/she will most likely return to your region upon release from the service. When corresponding with the NOSCAM members, regions should send newspaper, letters, and regional newsletters so that the member will know what work is being done in the home region.

NOSCAM does two monthly mailings and usually one special mailing during each month. A packet of information on GIs in the struggle is sent to each new member and the response to the packets has been very positive.

With regard to the GI movement, activity has died out in many places because of the signing of the treaty. However, in many other places, the GI movement is pulling together. People in the movement now see the necessity of organizing GIs because someone other than the officers must be in control of the military. VVAW/WSO is in a position to play a concrete and vital role in the GI movement, so we must all take this role seriously. This is why the regions must be interested and involved in the NOSCAM project and take the responsibility of communicating with NOSCAM members.

Information for chapters regarding the GI movement -- A list of all the GI projects may be obtained from the Chicago Area Military Project (2801 N. Sheffield, Chicago, Ill. 60657) and this list may enable chapters to know what projects they are near in case they are interested in trying to plug into the projects. When writing to GIs, it is important that VVAW/WSO not be on the return address. The chapter in Iwakuni, Japan is having problems receiving their mail, so chapters should take care to log the mail sent to the projects so that we can know what mail is being ripped off. It is also important that chapters and regions place the Japan chapters on their regular mailing lists. The Japan chapters desperately want to know what is going on with VVAW/WSO stateside, so regions should correspond with these projects as often as possible. The Yokosuka chapter recently sent a mailing to all of the regional offices, so if regions did not receive the mailing, the Yokosuka people should be informed so that they can send another mailing.

The addresses of the Japan chapters are:

VVAW/WSO Iwakuni
P. G. Box 49
Iwakuni-shi
Yamaguchi-Ken
Japan 740

People's House
P. O. Box 447
Koza, Okinawa
Japan

VVAW/WSO New People's Center
P. O. Box 26
Yokosuka-shi
Japan

Yokota VVAW/WSO - c/o Jim
Burnham
Sun Heights H-20
Fusea 2354; Fusea-shi 197

OPERATION COUNTY FAIR REPORT

One of the nurses from Bogue Chitto attended the NSCM and presented a slide show on the conditions in the community and the progress of the clinic. The steering committee learned that in the past year, many of the houses in the community have attained electricity and a few of the homes now have telephones. However, 50% of the houses still do not have running water. Also, the education in Bogue Chitto is so poor that even those people who attended high school still have problems reading.

The health problems of the community are serious. For example, one out of fifteen babies die in, or shortly after, childbirth. There is also a problem in that many of the people in the community have a distrust of doctors because they have received poor care in the past. Therefore, the people working with Operation County Fair are involved in instilling a trust of doctors within the people.

Political education classes are being conducted in the Bogue Chitto community, and classes on basic First Aid have been going on since November. The nurses and medics in Bogue Chitto have been teaching basic nutrition, sanitation, how to deal with drug and psychological problems, etc. Following the completion of the courses, an examination will be given.

Medical supplies have been coming into the clinic steadily. Right now, there are stacks of supplies scattered throughout the community because there is not a structure large enough to hold them all. This should not discourage people from sending supplies, however, because eventually all the supplies will be used. Chapters should take care and not send down drugs that are out-dated. Expired drugs are often donated to projects such as the clinic, but there are many drugs which, if outdated, cannot be used. Also, when collecting supplies, people should have the doctor donating the supplies fill out a form saying where the drugs are going and what the drugs are. By doing this, the drugs will get to the clinic with no hassles, and the nurses are qualified to receive the drugs so they cannot be confiscated.

There is a clothing store operating in Bogue Chitto in which donated clothing is sold for 5¢-\$5.00 to the people of Bogue Chitto. The money raised is given to the clinic and the people of the community can now buy good clothing without having to go to Selma. Chapters should collect clothing from their communities and ship it to Bogue Chitto where it will be sold and the clinic will be financially supported.

There is a temporary clinic structure set up. The building still needs to be insulated, and pipes must be put in from the building to the well which is 400 yards away. Also, a latrine has to be built and then electricity will be installed. The long-range goal of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic is to complete a permanent, brick structure to house the clinic. Plans for the building have already been drawn up, but there is no money to build such a structure.

Money is one of the major problems with the clinic. VVAW/WSO is nationally committed to the building of this clinic so fund-raising around this project should be an on-going project. The clinic has filed for tax-exempt status but the results of this filing are not yet known.

Some of the things which are needed by the clinic are: office supplies, towels, soap, health/education literature, school books, sterile water, fetus scopes, equipment for delivering babies, anti-hypertensives, tools (saws, picks, hammers) and manpower. Also, the clinic needs contacts with doctors who will be willing to do

up from different places around the country. A complete list of the needs of the clinic will be coming out of Bogue Chitto in the next few weeks and progress reports will be published regularly so that the regions can keep tabs on what is happening.

The Operation County Fair Clearing House commented on some of the problems which have arisen around the clinic. There has been a tendency among VVAW/WSQ members to get on the hand-wagon and then lose enthusiasm for the project. What the clinic needs is people who are dedicated and willing to work conscientiously. The L. A. Clearing House also requested that anything which is sent to Bogue Chitto (money, supplies, etc.) should be reported to the Clearing House because L. A. does not know what has been sent to the clinic. Guidelines for the establishment of the clinic are included in the Chicago NSCM minutes and these guidelines still apply and are to be strictly followed.

It is also important that people interested in going down to Bogue Chitto notify the people at the clinic and the L. A. office. The Clearing House and the clinic people should be told who is going, when people are planning to arrive, and what supplies are being taken to Alabama. This is just one more aspect of the communications problems. It should be stressed that any activity (fund-raising, benefits, etc.) surrounding Operation County Fair must be coordinated and reported with the Clearing House.

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WORKSHOP REPORTS

Before beginning the workshop reports, it should be noted here that a friendly amendment was passed with the women's workshop report which applies to all of the workshops.

PROPOSAL: All workshop proposals and suggestions are to be followed up and progress reports are to be given during regional Round Robin reports at future NSCMs.

VOTE: The proposal passed: 43-yes; 16-no; 1-abs.

The passage of this proposal means that all of the workshop proposals and suggestions which are to follow must be dealt with in the regions and reports are to be brought back to the NSCM so that the steering committee can see what progress is being made regarding the implementation of these proposals.

DISCHARGE UPGRADING WORKSHOP

There were two sections to this workshop: 1. included David Adelstone teaching the mechanics of discharge upgrading (the procedure, paper work, etc.) and 2. a discussion of the politics behind discharge upgrading. Adelstone's portion of the workshop cannot be covered in the minutes because of the technical nature and practical application which is involved. However, there was a problem which arose out of Adelstone's workshop which should be dealt with here. There were some complaints that what Adelstone was talking about was too advanced for those people just being introduced to the upgrading procedure. Therefore, if information is required re-

ing Project at 3067 24th St., San Francisco, California 94110. The DUP will be able to provide basic information which should be comprehensible for VVAW/WSO members desiring to work on discharges.

The report from the workshop discussion of the politics behind discharge upgrading reads as follows:

The primary aspect of discharge upgrading is its relation to the struggle of VVAW/WSO to build an anti-imperialist movement in this country. We do not see discharge upgrading as a service program; that is, a program designed to provide work for members and just help individuals get better discharges. Discharge upgrading is one organizing tool used to help build the grass roots campaign for total, universal and unconditional amnesty, and in so doing, helps us build anti-imperialist consciousness and membership.

Therefore, it is essential that any discharge upgrading project build its foundation on the amnesty position of VVAW/WSO, and that these projects utilize the energy of those they help in building the campaign for total, universal and unconditional amnesty.

Friendly Amendment: Future workshops on discharge upgrading be conducted in light that some people have no experience in the procedure involved in upgrading discharges.

VOTE: The report from this workshop was unanimously accepted by the steering committee. All chapters involved with discharge upgrading are to heed the political guidelines set down in this statement.

AMNESTY WORKSHOP

The first part of the amnesty workshop centered around a discussion of the "Operation Return" proposal which was introduced for VVAW/WSO endorsement by a group of people in Kansas City. The workshop made the following proposal with regard to the "Operation Return" idea.

PROPOSAL: That NSC representatives take "Operation Return" proposal back to the regions for discussion. This proposal will be brought back to the next NSCM for possible endorsement.

VOTE: The steering committee voted a unanimous rejection of this idea. This means that the "Operation Return" proposal was killed on the floor and is not to be taken to the regions. The body felt that the proposal was unrealistic in financial terms, and also that there were too many contradictions with our national position on amnesty contained in the "Return" idea.

The workshop next discussed the idea of a national petition to be used by those chapters desiring to do petitioning work. There was a lot of discussion around whether or not VVAW/WSO should use a petition directed toward Congress or a petition along

the lines of the People's Peace Treaty in which the people grant amnesty for war resisters. The following two proposals reflect the feelings about the petitioning campaign for amnesty.

PROPOSAL: That the National Clearing House on Amnesty develop and print a national petition for unconditional, universal amnesty for all war resisters. This petition is to be the national petition of VVAW/VSO.

VOTE: 36-yes; 23-no; 1-abs. The NCHA will soon have this petition available for all chapters.

PROPOSAL: That the National Clearing House on Amnesty write a petition that will contain the strongest, most direct and simple language possible yet will still be in a legal format and can be presented to Congress.

VOTE: 37-2/3-yes; 21-1/3-no; 1-abs. The above proposal provides the guidelines that the national petition is to follow.

The final proposal of the workshop focused on the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA). The following proposal was made by the workshop but was tabled to new business.

PROPOSAL: That the NCHA and VVAW/WSC members represented on the NCUUA steering committee research and draw up a paper explaining NCUUA and the pros and cons of affiliating with this coalition. This paper is to be sent to the regions as soon as possible. Possible affiliation is to be voted on at the next NSCM.

VOTE: There was unanimous acceptance of this proposal when it was voted on under New Business.

WOMENS WORKSHOP

Through the discussion in the women's workshop, we realized that sexism was a problem that affects all types of human interaction and is not solely limited to the oppression of women. For this reason we propose a change in the 8th objective.

PROPOSAL: All chapters and regions are to discuss the rewording of objective #8 and the rewritten suggestions are to be brought back to the next NSCM. Objective #8 does not state the problem of sexism in clearly defined terms. We must take into account more than the male/female relationship; i.e. brother/brother, sister/sister, sister/brother, and gay people.

VOTE: 57-3/8-yes; 2-5/8-no.

PROPOSAL: A portion of the next NSCMs Women's Workshop is to deal with the proposed objective change.

The next proposal deals with the women's newsletter which has been coming out of Milwaukee.

PROPOSAL: That the Milwaukee women's newsletter be integrated with the National newsletter. Milwaukee will continue to function as a collection point of material. This is in the interest of a centralized collection of information.

This proposal was withdrawn by the workshop because the body decided that there was no need for such a proposal. It is a de facto situation that the national newsletter is in a position to carry information about women in the organization and news which might aid these women.

Certain discussion centered around the problem of involving women in VVAW/WSO. Because of this, we make the following suggestions:

1. More conscious efforts be made to reach women through on-going projects. Specifically, discharge upgrading (both counseling and women with bad discharges), PVS groups, prison work, and women related to and within the military, as well as high school counter-recruitment programs.
2. A conscious effort be made to relate to the problem of sexism on an organizational basis as well as an individual one.
3. Because we are all equally oppressed by the power structure we must remember that consideration of our brothers and sisters is an effective means of fighting our common oppression.

PROPOSAL: At the next NSCM, progress reports on the implementation of the above suggestions and proposals are to be included in every regional Round Robin report.

Friendly Amendment: All workshop proposals and suggestions are to be followed up and progress reports are to be given during regional Round Robin reports at future NSCMs.

VOTE: This proposal passed with a vote of: 43-yes; 16-no; 1-abs.

WINTER SOLDIER INVESTIGATION WORKSHOP

At the Chicago Steering Committee Meeting, it was voted that VVAW/WSO conduct a Winter Soldier Investigation into the Intelligence Community. This investigation was to be held in alliance with the Committee for Action/Research On the Intelligence Community (CARIC). CARIC has been doing the groundwork for this project and have discovered that the investigation could better be conducted if VVAW/WSO was not involved in a sponsoring role. Because of this, VVAW/WSO's sponsorship of this action has been canceled, so the workshop on the WSI was also cancelled. During the workshop reports the following letter was read.

CARIC will hold an in-depth three day hearing on the role and scope of

"IN FROM THE COLD: PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE." The hearings will have former intelligence workers from the CIA, FBI, military intelligence, and former police informers describing their work in intelligence and its effect on their lives. The hearings will cover four major areas: FOREIGN INTERVENTION (imperialism), DOMESTIC OPERATIONS (repression in America,) THE EFFECTS OF SECRECY (psychological and social problems created by working in classified jobs), and THE CRAFTS OF INTELLIGENCE (self-explaining). We welcome VVAW/WSO's endorsement of this CARIC project, and hope that VVAW/WSO members will participate.

The central reason behind cancelling VVAW/WSO's sponsorship of this action involves security and the fact that some of the witnesses are reluctant to testify if VVAW/WSO is involved. It is very important that the names of the witnesses be kept secret until the time that they are to testify. Because of the large membership of VVAW/WSO and because of the number of informants in our ranks, it is necessary that VVAW/WSO drop its sponsorship of this action for the good of the project.

MASS ORGANIZATIONS WORKSHOP

The workshop on Mass Organizations met for the specified three hour period and drew a very large attendance. The persons requesting the workshop explained that they had requested the workshop to discuss the politics of the different forces within the organization directly, without the distraction of specific proposals or issues.

For approximately two hours, the appointed chairman recognized persons wishing to speak. Through discussions in which people expressed their personal politics and perceptions of the organization, the people involved began to break down fears and prejudices of positions different from their own.

It was the general consensus of the persons attending the workshop that the discussions were positive and very beneficial to the organization. Some persons have expressed a desire to hold more of these direct political discussions at all levels of the organization.

For the remaining hour, two proposals were discussed and voted on.

The majority of the workshop recommended that the NSC not accept the proposal submitted by the Washington, D. C. /Maryland/Virginia region. This proposal called for a repeal of the NSC policy in respect to unprincipled organizations. (D. C. proposed that the 'Proposal for Dealing with Trots' which was passed at the Placitas meeting be repealed). Washington, D. C. /Maryland/Virginia felt that the present policy of the NSC with regard to working with unprincipled organizations is not flexible enough.

It was the opinion of some of those supporting the Washington, D. C. proposal that the spirit of respect for diverse opinions that was evident in the initial political discussion was not carried over to the discussion of the Washington proposal.

The second proposal discussed was taken to the NSC with the recommendation from the workshop that this proposal be accepted. Following is the proposal and the introduction to the proposal. Though no one had problems with the proposal itself, there was a general consensus that the introduction was "red-baiting."

VVAW/WSO as a national organization has never endorsed, embraced or espoused any particular political ideology or dogma. The VVAW/WSO NSC has neither voted to call themselves capitalists or Marxists. We have in the past sought to remain as independent as possible even to the extent of nationally condemning specific Trotskyite groups and voting to not endorse George McGovern in 1972.

While VVAW/WSO has supported varied different organizations and individuals and their struggles, we have never claimed a particular political philosophy and we have refrained from doing this with great thought.

From the beginning, VVAW/WSO has sought to represent a broad base of persons, both veterans and non-veterans with varied political beliefs and backgrounds. VVAW/WSO's great appeal has always been its credibility as a veterans organization and the fact that we do not represent a particular ideology, but are issue oriented.

Lately, several of our members have become concerned with what is felt to be an overemphasis on Marxist thought and rhetoric. This has been exhibited somewhat in the Winter Soldier and issues evident in Gainesville.

We do not take specific issue with the Winter Soldier which we feel is a high quality paper or with particular persons who have represented VVAW/WSO as national speakers. We are concerned, however, that the Winter Soldier, national speakers, and VVAW/WSO as a national organization remain as independent in the future as it has in the past.

Therefore, we are proposing that the VVAW/WSO National Steering Committee reaffirm our independent stance.

This proposal is not meant as a particular criticism of the national collective and their efforts of Winter Soldier, rather we hope simply to reaffirm VVAW/WSO's national objectives.

VOTE: This proposal and the entire workshop report was unanimously accepted by the body.

PRISONS WORKSHOP

The following is the prisons workshop proposal:

PROPOSAL: That the National Collective take the steps to research the feasibility of establishing a National VVAW/WSO Prison Project combining prison organizing and internal and mass education. The Prison Project would seek to implement activity in four areas of concern:

1. Collect and disseminate information concerning prison conditions for both internal VVAW/WSO and mass education. Information developed in this area would be used to facilitate the following areas:
2. Coordinate and regulate all major contacts with defense committees working on politically oriented trials around prison struggles;
3. Facilitate communications on prison movements and contacts with individual prisoners between VVAW/WSO chapters, regions and the National Collective;

4. Aid, to whatever extent and on whatever level we can, prisoners in their efforts to organize within prisons.

All chapters and regions should forward to the National Collective any and all information and contacts concerning their activities with, and interest in, a Prison Project.

VOTE: This workshop proposal was unanimously accepted by the body. It was brought out that people should also be aware that none of our objectives deal with prisoners and their struggles and regions might discuss this. It was also noted that 33% of all prisoners are Vietnam Veterans.

GAINESVILLE ACTION, PAST AND PRESENT, WORKSHOP

The majority of this workshop dealt with a rather lengthy analysis of the Gainesville 8 support action held from July 31st - August 4th. Due to the size of the report involved, it was decided that this analysis would be prepared by the Gainesville 8 News Bureau collective and mailed out as soon as possible. It is to be considered as Appendix #1 to the St. Louis NSCM minutes.

In a discussion concerning future actions in support of the Gainesville 8, the following proposal was presented to the NSC:

PROPOSAL: Due to the strain on the organization's resources, particularly financial; and due to the uncertainty as to when the trial will actually end and the resulting difficulties in trying to plan a national action around an uncertain date; and finally, due to the small amount of time between the NSCM and the expected end of the trial, we propose that VVAW/WSG hold regional support actions to begin the day the trial goes to jury and to be held nightly until a verdict is returned. These actions will consist of courthouse vigils similar to the ones held in Gainesville, leafletting, speaking about the trial, etc. Since regions capabilities vary a good deal, this action is to be open-ended and will be implemented as closely as possible in each region given its particular capabilities. On the first Saturday after the jury returns a verdict, all regions will hold some form of rally at federal courthouses or other similar sites, with the primary purpose of bringing the trial to the public's attention as much as possible.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

"WINTER SOLDIER" WORKSHOP

A discussion of the Winter Soldier newspaper occurred in this workshop. No proposals were made in the workshop, but following are non-binding suggestions to the people involved with the paper in the National Collective. All of these suggestions were approved by consensus decisions.

Lay-out:

1. Keep the 10 objectives full page. Every issue should include an article highlighting one of the objectives by giving specific examples of how the objective applies and concrete work that chapters are doing to implement the objectives.
2. Reduce in size the list of VVAW/WSO Regional and National addressees. The remaining space could be used for either a comic strip tailored to the consciousness shown in the paper or an article on the objectives (#1).
3. Use bold-face names on the Regional and National address page. Eliminate the grey over-lay for the sake of clarity.
4. Give photo credits when possible.
5. Use photo captions pinpointing place and instance when possible.
6. Add a statement in every issue to complement our objectives, describing who we are, how we function, etc.

Content:

1. A set of guidelines is to be drawn up defining the scope and purposes of the organization's newspaper, Winter Soldier.
 - A. Winter Soldier should be designed so as to assist chapters nation-wide in grass-roots community organizing.
 - B. VVAW/WSO projects should be included in Winter Soldier as regular features for as long as such projects are operative. This should include local, regional, and national projects.
 - C. In many regions, Winter Soldier is distributed mainly in communities to persons not in VVAW/WSO. Winter Soldier should attempt to serve as a vehicle for the idea that VVAW/WSO is involved, nation-wide, at the community level.
2. The use of foreign figures or slogans should be balanced with American or domestic equivalents and slogans.
3. Use letters to promote criticism and show organizational openness. The upcoming issue should include statements outlining the policy and inviting letters to the editor.
4. More space should be devoted to the theory and practice of non-violence. Articles should possibly include specific instances and figures (Ghandi, King, etc.) This suggestion only received a 50% concensus.

VOTE: This workshop report was unanimously accepted and the National Collective will investigate the implementation of these suggestions.

G.I. ORGANIZING WORKSHOP

Because of the importance of guaranteeing the democratic rights for all G.I.s and of preventing future U.S. military interventions, VVAW/WSO must, in each region, either establish or begin working with existing military projects.

Those regions that are interested in becoming more involved with working in the G.I. movement are urged to contact NOSCAM as soon as possible. NOSCAM in turn, will supply to those regions information about all projects in their areas.

Ways that people can move effectively work with the G. I. movement are:

1. coordination with any existing projects
2. establishing G.I. projects wherever possible
3. make and maintain contact with those people whose names are sent to the regions by NCSCAM
4. sending names of active-duty G.I.s to NOSCAM for further contact
5. establish people in the region who can do military counseling
6. sending in to NCSCAM the names and addresses of any existing military projects and counseling centers -- it is important that these lists be kept current
7. NOSCAM will assemble and print a list of all centers from the ones that are sent in -- this list is to be distributed via the national newsletter
8. regions that would like someone to come and assist them in establishing projects should contact NGSCAM

VOTE: This workshop report was unanimously accepted. The above suggestions are to be heeded and put into practice by all regions that find G.I. organizing possible. These suggestions are to be reported on at the next NSCM during Round Robin reports.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE WORKSHOP

A workshop on electric surveillance was conducted by a specialist in the field. Because of the nature of the workshop, a report will not be included here. The workshop centered around the techniques involved in surveillance and the information covered is too detailed to discuss here.

Those wishing to learn the information presented in the workshop should read: The Electronic Invasion by Robert Brown. The book is published by Haden Book Co. in New Jersey. The bulk of the workshop centered around the information which is contained in this book.

SILKSCREENING WORKSHOP

There was a workshop held on the technique of silkscreening. Because of the practical nature of the workshop subject, a report on silkscreening was not present at the NSCM.

WAR WORKSHOP

The war workshop began with a report from John Naveau, a VVAW/WSO member who recently returned from Indochina. John reported on his meetings with the various peoples of Indochina -- the Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians, and Thais. John stressed the necessity of VVAW/WSO to continue educational work and action around the fact that U.S. involvement in Indochina is still very heavy -- the methods have simply changed from overt to covert. A report of John's trip to Indochina will not appear here, but will be carried in the next issue of Winter Soldier.

Realizing that the war in Indochina is a long way from being over, and that there is a very real need of keeping that reality in the public's consciousness, the war workshop drew up the following proposal.

PROPOSAL: That VVAW/WSC hold as a national action, a week of mass outreach from October 1-8, urging the American people to work for an immediate and total end to all U. S. involvement in Indochina, including the termination of any and all aid to the oupet Thieu and Lon Nol regimes in Vietnam and Cambodia. To be called INDOCHINA SOLIDARITY WEEK, this action will encourage the concept that everybody in the U. S. is, or should be, a "Winter Soldier" and cannot be lulled to sleep with the administration's propaganda lies about the "war being over." Realizing that not all regions will be able to organize extensive activities for this action, a list of various activities will be voted on, and then utilized where practical and applicable. One activity that will be carried out by ALL chapters and regions will be the distribution of a national VVAW/WSC poster stressing the need for solidarity with the Indochinese peoples and that the war is not over. The national collective will put this poster together and distribute it as soon as possible.

Activities proposed, in order of importance are:

1. postering
2. house-to-house canvassing to end the war
3. leafletting stores, factories, military installations, etc.
4. speaking gigs
5. recruiting for VVAW/WSC
6. direct actions wherever possible
7. political education through media displays -- slides, movies, etc.
8. guerilla theater

VOTE: A roll-call vote was asked for to assure that those regions voting for the proposal actually intended to enact the proposal in their regions. It was taken and the proposal was unanimously passed.

INDOCHINA SOLIDARITY WEEK

OCTOBER 1 - 8

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NEW BUSINESS

NATIONAL OFFICE ELECTIONS

Three people were nominated in Placitas to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Steve Hawkins: Rich Bangert, John Musgrave, and Joe Hirsch. During the meeting, John Musgrave declined the nomination and a letter from Joe Hirsch was read in which Joe also declined the nomination. Rich Bangert accepted the nomination and was questioned on his ideas of working in the National Collective. Rich stated that he was interested in the development of a nation-wide speakers bureau

PROPOSAL: That Rich Bangert be given a vote of confidence to become the new National Coordinator.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

Bart Savage's one-year term as a National Coordinator expired at this meeting. There was some criticism leveled at the National Office for not informing the regions that a vote on Bart was to be conducted at the St. Louis meeting, so in the future when terms of office expire, they will be announced at the meeting prior to the expiration date so that regions can discuss the re-election of the coordinators, and nominate people to run for the positions that will be open.

PROPOSAL: That Bart Savage be re-affirmed for another year in the National Office.

VOTE: 39-yes; 14-no; 12-abs.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

PROPOSAL: "Vietnam veteran" be dropped from the requirements for national or regional offices.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance. In the future, non-veterans may hold elected leadership positions on the national and regional level.

PROPOSAL: That at least 50% of the elected leadership on regional and national levels be veterans wherever applicable. (This proposal was made in light that we are still calling ourselves VVAW/WSO and the proposal also involved group leadership situations).

VOTE: This proposal was defeated: 26-3 1/4-yes; 28-no; 5-1 1/4-abs.

PROPOSAL: That we re-affirm that we are a veterans-based organization but this is not to preclude qualified persons from holding leadership positions.

VOTE: 55-yes; 5-no. The entrance of this proposal into the minutes is said affirmation.

LENGTH OF SERVICE AT NATIONAL OFFICE

PROPOSAL: That there be a one-year term of office for national coordinators. A coordinator could serve more than one term, but must first spend one year out of the office before being re-elected. No more than two national officers could be elected at any single NSCM.

VOTE: This proposal was defeated: 11-yes; 48-3 1/4-no; 5 1/8-abs. This entire idea was killed on the floor.

PROPOSAL: We propose that:

1. The term of office for a VVAW/WSO National Coordinator be fixed at the length of one year. Coordinators may elect to run for consecutive terms of office upon the completion of their current term. Two members of the National Collective will come up for re-election at each NSCM;
2. If a Coordinator is re-elected for consecutive terms, he or she must take two weeks to a month between terms (as far as is practical) to do work in a fledgling local chapter outside of his or her home region. While working in this chapter, the coordinator shall not function as a representative of the National Office, nor shall the coordinator assume a formal leadership position in the local chapter. The intent of this is twofold: to give the coordinator a concrete idea of organization problems at the lowest level of VVAW/WSO and to use the coordinator's experience to help establish a local chapter. The burden will be upon the coordinator to find a local chapter willing to take him or her, and to report this at the NSCM that will vote upon their renewed term of office. The local chapter shall assume responsibility for the coordinator's room and board, although the National Office shall assist to the extent they can.

VOTE: This proposal was accepted: 43-yes; 16-no; 1-abs. The vote on this proposal was one deciding whether or not to take the idea back to the regions. Because this proposal includes a policy-making decision, regions must discuss it and vote before the proposal becomes official policy. Therefore, this proposal is to be taken back to the regions and will be voted on at the next NSCM under old business.

Regarding National Office elections, three of the present coordinators terms will be expiring at the next NSCM. Beginning now, and in all future NSCM minutes, the coordinators whose terms are expiring are to be announced. Therefore, let it be known that Brian Adams, Ed Damato, and Sam Schorr will have completed their one-year term in December.

PROPOSAL: At the next NSCM, three of the national coordinators are coming up for re-election. Regions in the interim should recruit nominees for elections in December to be submitted no later than 60 days prior to the NSCM. The top two vote-getters in the election will be elected for the term of office and the third extended until the next NSCM. Nominees should spend time in the National Office within 60 days of their nomination.

(Clarification: This proposal was made in light of the fact that it is not good practice to elect several coordinators at one shot. There needs to be more spacing between elections so that all of the coordinators will not be leaving the Collective at the same time.)

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL OFFICE

The following people were nominated for the three vacant positions in the National Office which will be open in December: Maria Watson (National), Walter Klim (Wisconsin), Brian Adams (National), Sam Schorr (National), Ed Damato (National), and Mary Ann James (Colorado).

A resume of all the nominees will be compiled and sent to all the chapters so that the membership will have an understanding of the backgrounds of the nominees.

PROPOSAL CONCERNING VOTES

PROPOSAL: That the National Office cannot veto any elected or appointed coordinator or staff member to the National Office. The national office collective may appoint staff people which subsequently must be confirmed by the national steering committee.

VOTE: This proposal was defeated: 25-yes; 35-no.

PROPOSAL CONCERNING STRAW VOTES

PROPOSAL: Straw votes must be 5 votes per region passed through regional coordinators or regional officers. A national coordinator must take the responsibility for taking the vote and should state simply the source (i.e., the individual and position in the organization of the person making the request) and reason for vote. National coordinators should not try and influence the vote and it should be published and disseminated to all regions upon completion of the tally.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

PROPOSAL ON PROXY VOTES

Because of the ambiguity in the proxy proposal which was passed at the Placitas NSCM, it was suggested that a clarification of proxy vote procedure be made. The use of proxy votes in the future will adhere to the following guidelines.

PROPOSAL: Each region can only have one written proxy and this proxy is to apply to all votes on specific issues as authorized in the proxy. There will be no blanket proxies. These proxies are to be turned in to the chair at the beginning of the meeting. Regions having to leave a NSCM early may leave a written proxy on specific issues with the chair.

VOTE: This proposal was unanimously accepted.

PVS -- STRUGGLE VS. SYNDROME

The subject was raised asking for clarification on where the term "Post Vietnamese Struggle" came from which appeared in the June issue of Winter Soldier. People who attended the April meeting in St. Louis on PVS explained that people such as Lifton and other psychologists do not like the term "syndrome" because it is mis-

psychological problems, but are societal in nature. The word "syndrome" has been foisted on us by the media, but the term "struggle" is more accurate because it suggests that the problem is societal/political in nature. It was agreed upon that chapters and regions may use whichever term they choose.

NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

VVAW/WSO previously established a national defense committee, but this committee has proved to be non-functional because of problems in the set-up and structure of the committee. Because of this, the following proposal was made.

PROPOSAL: That a national defense committee be planned in order to handle funds and political activity around any future case directed against VVAW/WSO as decided by the NSC, and that any potential defendant not willing to abide by this plan not be supported by the organization.

VOTE: This proposal was never voted on, but should provide an impetus for discussion within the regions. Instead of voting, it was suggested that a workshop be held at the next NSCM for the purpose of setting up a functioning defense committee. This suggestion was unanimously accepted.

DEFUNCT REGIONS

PROPOSAL: That Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky temporarily annex the region of Michigan for administrative purposes. Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky retains the option to drop this region when the activity in Michigan becomes stronger.

VOTE: This proposal was unanimously accepted.

PROPOSAL: Until the next NSCM, the region of West Pennsylvania/West Virginia be temporarily annexed to Ohio/Indiana/Kentucky for administrative purposes. West Maryland is to be considered part of the Washington, D. C./Virginia/East Maryland region.

VOTE: 44-yes; 11-no.

PROPOSAL: That Florida temporarily annex the region of Georgia for administrative purposes.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

PROPOSAL: That there be a workshop on defunct regions at the next NSCM. This will aid in deciding what to do with regions not currently doing active organizing. Representatives on the steering committee are to return to their regions with this problem so that there will be input into the workshop.

VOTE: This proposal for a workshop received unanimous acceptance.

FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

PROPOSAL: That VVAW/WSC conduct a 5-7 day National VVAW/WSO Festival of Learning, and that there be a workshop at the next NSCM to plan logistics and settle on a date -- either the last week in May or first week in June, 1974. In the interim, Wisconsin/Minnesota will cover some ground work around a campsite (i. e., Hot Springs - a National Forest - or a private ranch, both in New Mexico), and a skeleton scenario.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance. This Festival is being planned for the purpose of allowing the general membership of VVAW/WSO to get together and learn what VVAW/WSC is doing around the country from first-hand contact. The Festival is designed for the sharing of information.

AMENDMENT TO PLACITAS NSCM MINUTES

It was suggested that there was a mistake in the Placitas NSCM minutes under the "Future of VVAW Workshop Report." Therefore, there is now an amendment to this workshop report: III. Transitional Period, 4B. The change is to read as follows:

III, 45: National coordinators and national representatives are authorized to travel throughout the organization for purposes of internal liaison with the knowledge of the regional coordinator or regional office.
(The remainder of III, 4B will remain as shown in the Placitas minutes).

VOTE: This suggested change was accepted by the body and the minutes are so amended.

CHILD CARE PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL: That it be official VVAW/WSO policy to provide collective child care for any future NSCM or national action; and that it be recommended that regions pursue a similar course. Volunteer help in child care should be stressed, but if a region cannot establish volunteer care, then registration fees should be set aside to ensure professional care with the understanding that volunteers are to work with the professional for purposes of learning how to handle children.

Friendly Amendment: That we have on-going workshops at NSCMs on Child Care, and that these workshops be held until we get it together and educate ourselves to the care of children.

VOTE: 35-yes; 17-1/2-no; 2-1/2 abs.

PROPOSED WORKSHOP ON NSCMs

PROPOSAL: That we hold a workshop at the next NSCM to aid regions in organizing and planning future NSCMs. A pamphlet containing guidelines for the host region could result from this workshop.

UNITED FARM WORKER SUPPORT

PROPOSAL: That a telegram of support be sent to the United Farm Workers. This is to be written by the National Collective and signed by the Steering Committee. A copy of this telegram is to be printed in Winter Soldier. Also, Winter Soldier is to carry in a small box form a list of products that are being boycotted. This box is to appear in every issue.

VOTE: This proposal was accepted by a voice vote.

CENSURING OF SCOTT REHMER

There have been numerous inconsistencies around Scott Rehmer and his performance as a VVAW/WSO representative in the past. The most blatant example of Scott's history of "misrepresentation" may be seen when viewing Scott's performance at Bogue Chitto and Operation County Fair. Some of the information that Scott has passed on to VVAW/WSO, the community in Bogue Chitto and individuals working on OCF have resulted in adverse effects regarding VVAW/WSO's effectiveness in and trust of the Bogue Chitto community. Also, because of problems which resulted from Scott's participation in the Miami convention demonstrations, the Inauguration action, and the Gainesville action, the following proposals were made:

PROPOSAL: That Scott Rehmer be censured as a representative of VVAW/WSO with relationship to Operation County Fair. The National Office is to write a letter to the clinic stating that Scott is no longer involved with the project. A copy of this letter is to be sent to Scott.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

PROPOSAL: That Scott Rehmer be censured from participating as a leadership representative or spokesman of VVAW/WSO in all VVAW/WSO national projects and actions. Scott still has the option to remain a member of VVAW/WSO, but is not to represent the organization. A letter regarding the above is to be sent to all of the regions and to Scott. In this letter, Scott will be informed that he has the option to answer the charges against him at the next NSCM, but he will not be allowed to attend the entire meeting.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

PROPOSAL REGARDING KENT STATE GRAND JURY

The representative from Kent State asked that the Steering Committee condemn the grand jury which is being revitalized to investigate the Kent State shootings of May, 1970. The reason behind this request include the fact that the guilty persons will not be indicted, but rather the students, privates and low-ranking officers in the National Guard will be indicted. This Grand Jury does not promise to contain any semblance of justice, but is another "witch-hunt" in which innocent persons will be prosecuted. Also, the grand jury will focus attention on Kent State again, and the community of Kent does not desire this. It is interesting that the original grand

jury reports have been burned, so the entire procedure will begin again, and information which conflicts with the original investigation will not be proveable. Because of the above reasons, the following proposal was made.

PROPOSAL: That VVAW/WSC condemn the Kent State Grand Jury on a national level (this includes chapters and regions) and that we offer no cooperation with this jury in any form. We realize that the Grand Jury is being held for the reasons of persecuting a few students, privates, and 2nd Lieutenants. Research as to in-put from those people directly affected by the Grand Jury is to be gathered and presented to the steering committee at the next NSCM.

VOTE: This proposal was accepted by a voice vote.

"IN FROM THE COLD" ENDORSEMENT

The "In From the Cold" project of CARIC is described under the WSI Workshop Report. Because the regions did not feel that they are familiar enough with CARIC to endorse this project at this time; and also because we want to offer as much cooperation as possible with regard to the gathering of information and testimony, the following proposal was made.

PROPOSAL: That the VVAW/WSC National Steering Committee urge all regions to communicate all information regarding domestic and foreign intelligence to CARIC or to the Washington, D. C. chapter of VVAW/WSC. The endorsement of the "In From the Cold" project will be discussed at the next NSCM.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

NCUUA AFFILIATION

PROPOSAL: That the National Clearing House on Amnesty and VVAW/WSC members represented on the NCUUA steering committee research and draw up a paper explaining NCUUA and the pros and cons of affiliating with this coalition. This paper is to be sent to the regions as soon as possible. Possible affiliation is to be voted on at the next NSCM.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL CONGRESS IN MOSCOW

From October 26-November 2, the World Peace Council will be sponsoring an International Congress to be held in Moscow. VVAW/WSC has been invited to send a delegation. In light of this, the following proposal was made.

PROPOSAL: That VVAW/WSC send a delegation to the Moscow conference.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

Nominations were then taken from the body on the composition of the delegation. It was also mentioned that John Naveau and John Musgrave have already received in-

Congress anyway. The other nominations to become a part of the official delegation included: Annie Bailey (Wisconsin), Bill Hager (California), Tim Butz (Washington, D.C.) and Pete Zastrow (Ohio). Annie Bailey received the most votes and Bill Hager came in second. VVAW/WSO has been promised free transportation for two people and one of the people who will be attending is Brian Adams from the National Office. The other free transportation will be used by Annie.

PROPOSAL: The official delegation from VVAW/WSO to the International Congress in Moscow is to include Brian Adams, Annie Bailey, John Naveau, and John Musgrave. Bill Hager is to be the official alternate and if we receive more funding for transportation Bill Hager is to become part of the delegation.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL ACTION

Washington, D.C. brought up the idea of holding a National Action in D.C. sometime in the Spring of 1974. The suggested focus of this action included: the issue of amnesty for veterans, G.I.'s rights and veterans benefit increases due to the cost of living raise. The following proposal was made.

PROPOSAL: That regions are to explore the possibilities of how the organization could relate to a national action in Washington, D.C. in the Spring of 1974.

VOTE: This proposal was defeated: 11-yes; 39-no. This means that the idea does not need to be discussed in the regions.

PROPOSAL ON DEATH DRUGS

PROPOSAL: That there be a workshop at the next NSCM for the purpose of creating a Position Paper with a statistical and political analysis on Death Drugs, and to formulate ways to implement the position that is contained in this paper. In order to conduct the workshop effectively, this issue will have to be investigated, both in and out of VVAW/WSO, by the regions.

VOTE: This proposal received unanimous acceptance.

DATE AND SITE OF NEXT NSCM

Three places were nominated to host the next NSCM: Chio (possibly Antioch), Tampa, Florida; and Bogue Chitto, Alabama. The vote was taken and the results are as follows:

Chio	36-1/2
Tampa	13-1/2
Bogue Chitto	0

Therefore, the next NSCM will be hosted by the Chio/Indiana/Kentucky region and will possibly be held in Antioch, Ohio.

The date of the next steering committee meeting was unanimously decided to be set for December 27-31. The host region has promised to provide New Year's Eve festivities for the steering committee once the meeting is completed.